

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /071 W

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R 060415Z FEB 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3192

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: TEN HSIAO-PING DEFINES HIS RELATIONSHIP TO MAO

TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR MANAC'H PAID CALL ON
TENG HSIAO-PING FEB 1 TO BID FAREWELL, AND DURING CONVERSATION
CONGRATULATED TENG ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO NEW INFLUENTIAL POSTS
IN PRC GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES. TENG REPORTEDLY BECAME RATHER
AGITATED AT THOUGHT HE WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO EXERCISE ANY
SPECIAL DEGREE OF INFLUENCE. WHAT FOREIGNERS FAILED TO UNDERSTAND,
HE SAID, WAS THAT POLICY WAS DETERMINED BY CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG
AND EXECUTED BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI; HE, TENG, WAS MERELY A "COLLAB-
ORATOR" OF CHOU EN-LAI'S.

2. SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION WAS CHARLES MALO, THEN DCM, AND NOW
FRENCH CHARGE, WHO ACCOMPANIED MANAC'H. MALO FELT THAT TENG'S
REMARKS FAIRLY ACCURATELY SUMMED UP TENG'S POWER RELATIONSHIP TO
OTHER TOP CCP LEADERS. HE THEORIZED THAT TENG, HAVING BEEN
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RESTORED TO A LEADERSHIP POSITION FOLLOWING DENUNCIATION DURING

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AS A "CAPITALIST ROADER," WAS VERY MUCH BEHOLDEN TO THOSE WHO RAISED HIM UP--PRESUMABLY MAO AND CHOU-- AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP ANY INDIVIDUAL AUTHORITY. MALO ALSO FELT THAT "WHEN THE SUCCESSION BEGINS" TENG WOULD BE AT A DISADVANTAGE

IN COMPETING WITH LEADERS SUCH AS CHANG CHUN-CHIAO WHOSE POLITICAL CAREERS HAD BEEN DISTINGUISHED BY STEADY PROGRESS UPWARD WITHOUT ANY SPECTACULAR SETBACKS OF THE NATURE SUFFERED BY TENG.

3. COMMENT. THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO WHAT MALO SAYS, ALTHOUGH IT IS CERTAINLY TOO SOON AFTER TENG'S NEW APPOINTMENTS TO MAKE FIRM JUDGEMENTS. ONE PURPOSE OF TENG TAKING LINE HE USED WITH MANACH MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN TO ESTABLISH MAO TSE-TUNG AS ENDORSER OF TENG'S POSITIONS DESPITE MAO'S ABSENCE FROM PARTY PLENUM AND FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. IN THIS RESPECT, ACCORDING TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR OGAWA, TENG TOLD VISITING LDP LEADER HORI THAT MAO TSE-TUNG AND CHOU EN-LAI WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF FOURTH NPC.
HOLDRIDGE

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